

PARK BOARD MINUTES
January 13, 2010
Gier Community Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Kibbey, Ron Lott, Paul Carrier, Cynthia Ward, Luke Canfora, Dusty Fancher,
Patrick Murray (arrived at 7:30 p.m.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Murdock Jemerson, Parks Director; Jerry Ambrose, Deputy Chief of Staff; Brett Kaschinske, Manager of Leisure Services; Paul Dykema, Forestry and Grounds Manager; Loretta Stanaway, Friends of Lansing Historic Cemeteries (FOLHC); RonTheisen, Friends of Frances Park; Tamara Jorkasky and Bob Ford, Landscape, Architect and Planners (LAP); Marti Wheeler; Ron Eggleston, Friends of Fenner; Kellie Brown, Interim Board Secretary

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:15 p.m.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Carried asked to add a discussion regarding the creation of an advisory board for the Southside Community Center.

Kibbey added an update on the Parks 5-Year Master Plan by LAP

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS:

Stanaway asked the Board to seriously consider the CIP project for North Cemetery. Stanaway also commented with the park millage renewal coming up this year the Friends would like to support the millage.

Theisen inquired about the status of the walkway from Cambridge Drive to the river.

Jemerson stated that he is working with the Public Service Department about joining funds to widen the street and install a sidewalk from Cambridge Drive to Frances Park.

BOARD MINUTES:

Ward moved to accept the December 9, 2009 minutes as submitted; seconded by Carrier. 6 yeas, 0 nays

Motion carried

ADDITIONS

5-Year Plan Update

Ford (LAP) stated the plan is being placed on the FTP site and the Board has been provided a draft copy to review and provide feedback, revisions and comments.

Ward inquired what FTP site Ford was referring to. Jorkasky stated she would e-mail the link to Board members along with a password to make changes and to be advised the electronic will be constantly updated.

Ward inquired who would have access to this site. Ford stated Park Board members and Director Jemerson.

Fancher stated in the back of the draft there are regional groups listed and inquired where did this list of groups come from and could more be added.

Ford stated this group is comprised of individuals who participated in the public meetings and surveys. Fancher clarified she was referring to the recreation inventory.

Kibbey wanted to know when to act on this. Ford stated comments needed to be completed within one week. The draft would then be sent out to be approved by staff and Park Board; the plan then would be on display for 30 days; there will also need to be a public hearing. The plan needs to be adopted by April 1, 2010.

NEW BUSINESS

City Budget Review

Jerry Ambrose, Chief of Staff, stated the City has begun the process for the City's fiscal year 2011 budget and over the next two months administration will be working to get a proposed budget to City Council by mid-March in order to have the budget approved in May.

Ambrose thanked the Board for their work and stated the park system is a jewel of the City and to consider what they would like the parks to be in five years as the department is working on the new Master Plan.

Ambrose stated these are difficult economic times for government and the city is developing revenue to support the next year's budget. Property taxes are less for this year by 8%, however another source of revenue is income tax, which appears to be stable, and with new General Motors employees back to work in the area this is positive.

The State Revenue Sharing Conference just occurred and state shared revenues are showing a slight improvement. However, state revenues suffered a large loss last year and the City's share was lower, therefore the city established furlough days to help offset the loss.

This may be the worst year and implications are the economy may begin to improve after this year and each year will improve, but it may be 2014 before we begin to start out a fiscal year even.

The city has reduced its work force from 1300 to 1100 over the last four years. The intention is to protect parks, but it will be tough to do. Ambrose encouraged the Board to look for partnerships with other entities.

The City's revenue is down 8-10% and last years mid year adjustments were not enough.

Staff presentation

Brett Kaschinske, Manager of Leisure Services, provided a presentation on a basketball complex. The idea is to create one large complex to accommodate all ages, leagues and programs instead of the one-court sites we have throughout the city. It was recommended to place the basketball complex at either Davis Park or St. Joe Park. Also included in the presentation was the concept of a multi field baseball complex. Two locations could be considered for this; one would be Quentin Park, however there are no restrooms at Quentin. The other location would be St. Joe Park, which recently had renovated restrooms. The idea would be to resurface the fields, install fencing, dugouts and backstops.

Kibbey inquired if there is a baseball advisory group. Kaschinske stated there is for adult, but not for youth.

Carrier inquired why Quentin would be considered if there were no restrooms. Dykema stated there are fields at Quentin that need repairing. Kaschinske stated at this time this park is used for the T-ball program.

Kaschinske stated in regards to providing football fields; the Mid-Michigan Youth Football group currently plays at Gardner where the fields there are short and in bad repair.

Fancher stated she would have a difficult time putting money into a football facility when there already ones in

the city at the schools and with declining enrollment there may not always be multiple high schools. She would rather look for a partnership with an existing field.

Murray concurred that he would rather look into providing money to maybe resurface an existing field, instead of creating a new facility.

CIP Projects

Kibbey stated he wanted to read through the list of CIP projects. Fancher indicated this was done at the last board meeting and even though not everyone was at the meeting the list was defined in the December minutes and she did not feel it was necessary to review the list again, but did encourage everyone to look at the maintenance of current facilities.

Kibbey stated he would like to have the Board's consensus on citywide maintenance and kids camps.

Lott indicated lines 13 through 16, citywide maintenance through kids' camp, could be the consensus. Fancher stated she had an issue with line 14, the paving projects.

Jemerson added new items to the CIP list which were the Youth Baseball Complex for \$250,000; Forestry Master Plan for \$30,000; Conservation Plan for \$25,000; Artificial Ice Rink for \$150,000; and a Master Plan for Waverly Park (Golf Course) for \$25,000.

Fancher asked for a consensus of the Board for the silo removal. This item has been on the list for a couple of years and is a safety issue. Murray inquired why park money has to be used. Jemerson stated the silos are on parkland and are a liability issue.

Ward stated Murray has a valid point, but she does not want to avoid liability responsibility.

Kibbey stated this project would be added as a consensus of the Board, but the Board would like staff to evaluate other possibly funding options. Canfora suggested investigating the possibility of using State funding for this project.

The Board provided consensus for the following projects

Burchard Park Silo Removal	\$ 50,000
City-wide Playgrounds and Park Amenities	\$210,000
City-wide Repair and Maintenance	\$ 80,000
River Trail Repair and Maintenance	\$160,000
Kids Camps	\$ 40,000

The Board voted on the remaining FY11 CIP list as follows:

Moores Park Swimming Pool-Locker rooms (8)	\$ 75,000
City-wide Park Map (7)	\$ 75,000
Basketball Complex (7)	\$150,000
Hunter Park Swimming Pool-Locker rooms (7)	\$ 75,000
Waverly Park Master Plan (7)	\$ 25,000
Frances Park Master Plan Phase 3 (6)	\$ 50,000
Forestry Master Plan (6)	\$ 30,000
Forestry Division Tree Purchasing (5)	\$ 30,000
Crego Park – MDNR Grant Match	\$175,000

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Kellie Brown, Interim Park Board Secretary
Approved February 10, 2010